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Message Text

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43
ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01

SAB-01 IO-10 AID-05 ACDA-10 /091 W
---------- 124913
R 031030Z MAR 75
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6668
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 0352

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, IS, JO
SUBJ: SETTLEMENT ATTEMPT NEAR JERICHO

1. SUMMARY. EFFORT BY GROUP OF ISRAELIS TO ESTABLISH SETTLEMENT AT MAALE ADUMIM, SITE APPROVED BY GOI FOR JERUSALEM INDUSTRIAL ZONE, ENDED LATE MAR 2 WHEN IDF FORCIBLY REMOVED SETTLERS AND BUSSED THEM BACK TO JERUSALEM. END SUMMARY.

2. A GROUP OF ISRAELIS MOVED INTO MAALE ADUMIM SITE DESIGNATED AS JERUSALEM INDUSTRIAL ZONE IN PRE-DAWN HOURS MAR 2 IN EFFORT TO SET UP RESIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT. LOCATION IS OFF MAIN JERUSALEM-JERICHO ROAD, NEAR INN OF GOOD SAMARITAN (KHAN EL-AHMAR). ACCORDING TO PRESS A NUMBER OF MEN, SOME ACCOM-

PANIED BY FAMILIES, ARRIVED IN CONVOY OF TRUCKS AND WERE ABLE TO SET UP TWO WOODEN HUTS AND ONE PREFAB BUILDING AND OTHER FACILITIES BEFORE SECURITY FORCES APPARENTLY AWARE OF THEIR ACTIVITY. THEY PUT UP WOODEN TOWER FOR FUEL OR WATER TANK
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ON WHICH THEY RAISED ISRAELI FLAG, AND ALSO BROUGHT ELECTRIC

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GENERATOR, BOTTLED GAS, WATER SUPPLY, AND PORTABLE SHOWERS WITH THEM. THEY ALSO PLANTED SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF TREE SEEDLINGS IN TWO "FORESTS". AFTER UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO PERSUADE THEM TO LEAVE VOLUNTARILY, THEY WERE REMOVED BY IDF LATE IN DAY AND RETURNED TO JERUSALEM BY BUS. THERE WAS NO VIOLENCE OR PHYSICAL CLASH, HOWEVER.

3 SINCE GOI DECISION TO CREATE INDUSTRIAL ZONE FOR JERUSALEM AT MAALE ADUMIM, ONLY VERY BEGINNINGS OF PREPARATIONS OF SITE HAVE TAKEN PLACE, MAINLY ROAD-BUILDING. WOULD-BE SETTLERS HAVE, NEVERTHELESS, PRESSED FOR COMMITMENT THAT FAMILIES, NOT JUST INDIVIDUAL WORKERS, BE PERMITTED TO SETTLE IN AREA. MARCH 2 EFFORT WAS APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO FORCE THIS ISSUE, DESPITE FACT IT WILL OBVIOUSLY BE MANY MONTHS BEFORE INDUSTRY THAT WOULD EMPLOY SETTLERS COULD ACTUALLY BE SET UP IN THIS DESOLATE AREA, WHICH IS TOTALLY LACKING IN BASIC FACILITIES, INCLUDING WATER SUPPLY.

4. LOCAL ARABIC PRESS REPORTS PROTEST BY JERICHO MAYOR TO GOI OVER THIS SETTLEMENT ATTEMPT, WHICH IS CRITICIZED AS DETRIMENTAL TO CURRENT PEACE EFFORTS. IT IS NOTED THAT FAULT LIES BASICALLY WITH GOI WHOSE DECISION TO ESTABLISH INDUSTRIAL ZONE ENCOURAGES "UNAUTHORIZED" MOVES SUCH AS THIS BY SETTLERS' GROUPS.
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